

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a method of making molded articles having at least one field of hooks integrally molded thereon. Claims 8, 16 and 17 have been amended to state the invention with greater clarity; the amendments are not intended to further limit the scope of the claims.

The Examiner's withdrawal of the earlier rejection based on the Harvey reference is noted with appreciation.

The rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, and 17 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Buzzell et al (U.S. 6,187,247) is respectfully traversed. The reference describes a mold having two halves 152 and 154 that come together to define a space between them that can accommodate a mold action block 156. The action block 156 operates on a mold plate 158 that has a plurality of hook shaped cavities, such that the mold plate 158 with the hook shaped cavities is disposed in the space between the mold halves. Pending independent claims 8 and 17 recite that the mold has two or more parts, at least one of the mold parts *having an aperture through a first wall thereof*, and an insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities, *the insert being receivable in the aperture in the wall of the mold part*. This structure is not met by the Buzzell reference, which teaches two mold parts and an insert having hook-shaped cavities being disposed *between* the mold parts, *not* being received in an aperture in one of them. Thus claims 8 and 17 are not anticipated by the Buzzell reference.

Claims 8, 16, and 17 have been amended to state the direction of removal of the molded article from the mold with respect to the angle of the mold wall having the aperture therethrough

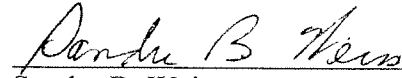
that receives the insert bearing the hook-shaped cavities, rather than with respect to the field of hooks on the molded article. These amendments are not intended to change the scope of these claims, but to more clearly state the invention. The Buzzell reference does not disclose a mold having a wall with an aperture therethrough for receiving an insert, therefore Buzzell does not disclose any angle between the direction of removing a molded article from the mold with respect to such a wall. Thus the claims as amended are not anticipated by the Buzzell reference.

The unique structure recited in claim 8 allows for the subject invention to be used in the manufacture of articles, such as a molded box with hooks on a side panel (recited in dependent claims 13-15), that could not be achieved with the mold of the Buzzell reference. Since Buzzell does not teach placement of the mold insert with hook shaped cavities in an aperture in a mold wall, it would not be possible using the apparatus of Buzzell to mold an article having a field of hooks on one surface thereof, wherein the article is withdrawn from the mold in a direction such that the wall having the field of hooks formed thereon is substantially parallel to the direction in which the article is withdrawn from the mold.

Thus the rejection of claims 13-15 as obvious in view of Buzzell is respectfully traversed. The forming of hooks on the outer surface of a box is not a mere design choice. Integrally molded boxes with molded hooks on a vertical surface thereof are unknown to applicant; and the Examiner not provided a specific citation to any prior art reference disclosing such an integrally molded article. Buzzell only teaches the manufacture of an article wherein the hooks are provided as substantially an entire surface of an article, and in which the mold has to be completely disassembled to recover the molded article. Buzzell does not teach or suggest the molding of a box as described in claims 13-15.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for rejection have been overcome, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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